

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

August 17, 2010

Freeholder meeting room in Bridgeton, NJ 08302

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, August 17, 2010 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder Meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present:	Penny Watson	Patricia Gale
	Jean Jones	Roy Kaneshiki
	Flavia Alaya	Ella Boykin

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes – July 20, 2010

A motion to approve the minutes from July 20, 2010 was made by Ella Boykin. The motion was seconded by Penny Watson and passed unanimously. Patricia Gale abstained from voting.

Cohansey RiverFest (Plein Air Competition) August 28, 2010

Matthew Pisarski said 11 artists signed up for the Plein Air Competition. Roy Kaneshiki asked about the deadline. Mr. Pisarski responded that the deadline is August 20th. Flavia Alaya passed out brochures for the RiverFest and asked if anyone had any questions regarding the event. Ms. Alaya asked Mr. Pisarski if he knew anything about the plein air poetry person who wanted to participate. Mr. Pisarski said he emailed the poet and told her she could participate, but she did not reply. Ms. Alaya provided a variety of details regarding the event. Mr. Pisarski said Ms. Alaya has done a fantastic job on the RiverFest. Ms. Alaya suggested that next year a person dedicated exclusively to the RiverFest should be considered. Ella Boykin asked if Bridgeton Main Street convinced PSEG to sponsor. Ms. Alaya responded affirmatively. Ms. Alaya invited Commission members to please join the launch of this exciting new event. Also, if anyone has any questions or thoughts to please email them to her.

East Point Artists' Day – September 18, 2010

Mr. Pisarski said the music and artists have been booked for the day. Mr. Pisarski informed the Commission that a considerable amount of work still needs to be done before September 18th. Patricia Gale asked Mr. Pisarski if another meeting of the ad hoc committee has been scheduled. He said another should be coming up in about a week.

NJHC Special Project Grant Application

Mr. Pisarski led a discussion regarding potential projects to be covered by the grant. It was agreed that the application would be for a history oriented board capacity program. Mr. Pisarski asked for a motion to proceed with the grant application. The motion was made by Jean Jones, seconded by Flavia Alaya and passed unanimously.

Barrier-Free Playground Letter to Mayor Kelly

Mr. Pisarski wrote a letter on behalf of the Commission to Mayor Kelly regarding a Barrier Free Playground. The letter is nearly identical to the one which was sent to the previous mayor. Mr. Pisarski did add in the letter to Mayor Kelly that his predecessor was aware of the problem and never bothered to respond. Mr. Pisarski will let the Commission know of Mayor Kelly's response.

Grant Writing Workshop – Kathleen Cavanaugh

Mr. Pisarski said the regrant applications are out and the due date is September 30th. Pat Bohs has done the workshop in the past but her cost to run the workshop is high. Mr. Pisarski reached out to Gloucester County to see who they used for their grant writing workshop. Gloucester uses Kathleen Cavanaugh and her fee is half that of Ms. Bohs'. Mr. Pisarski would like to have the workshop at Gallery 50, Inc. on August 31st. He is waiting on confirmation from the venue. A motion to approve Kathleen Cavanaugh for the workshop was made by Flavia Alaya. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gale and passed unanimously.

N.J. Council for the Humanities Grant – West Jersey Time Traveler Project

Mr. Pisarski received an email from the Council for the Humanities indicating they have a grant program that funds up to \$20,000. Mr. Pisarski registered the Cultural and Heritage Commission in order to assure eligibility. Mr. Pisarski recommends the Commission apply for the West Jersey Time Traveler project. Ms. Jones asked how the collaboration with Salem County was proceeding. Mr. Pisarski explained that as the planning progresses, the intent of the two Commissions seems to be deviating. He suggested that the Commission should just proceed with its own efforts and Salem can always join in at a later date. Ms. Gale spoke to Salem County Freeholder Beth Timberman and she seemed very happy about the project. Penny Watson suggested that members of the Commission make an effort to attend Union County's event, which inspired this project. Mr. Pisarski said he would forward information on to the members about the Union County event. Ella Boykin asked for the West Jersey Time Traveler project to be explained. The event as proposed would be a weekend long coordination of historic sites which are publicly owned throughout the county. All sites would be open that weekend during the same hours. The Commission would produce passport-type documents for the participants which could be stamped at each site. Ms. Alaya suggested that perhaps the grant application could include an audio podcast component so that a long term benefit could be derived from the grant. This suggestion met with unanimous support. A motion to proceed with the Humanities Grant was made by Penny Watson. The motion was seconded by Flavia Alaya and passed unanimously.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Alaya met with Bonnie Eggenburg from Tri County. They will meet again.

Ms. Gale has been emailing Lisa Jester from the Millville Army Air Field Museum. Ms. Jester will let Ms. Gale know about future events. Ms. Gale has not had any contact with the Mauricetown Historical Society.

Ms. Watson said Watson and Henry sponsored the last reception at Gallery 50, Inc.

Mr. Pisarski wanted the Commission to know the Jewish Film Festival starts August 18th at the Landis Theater. He provided tickets to the Commission members offered gratis by the Jewish Federation and encouraged everyone to attend.

Mr. Pisarski introduced Freeholder Thompson who stopped in to the meeting to greet the Commission.

Other Old/New Business

Mr. Pisarski provided a letter from the State Council on the Arts announcing a 2011 grant award to the Commission in the amount of \$109,590. This amount is an \$8,118 increase from the 2010 award. Mr. Pisarski asked for volunteers to serve on the Budget Committee. Last year's committee included Ms. Alaya, Suzanne Merighi and Ms. Watson. Mr. Pisarski asked for participation from members who have not served on the committee in recent years. Ms. Boykin and Ms. Alaya volunteered and Mr. Garrison was nominated in his absence. Ms. Boykin asked if thank you letters should be sent to the Council. Mr. Pisarski responded that he would write a letter on behalf of the Commission and personal letters from the members directly are encouraged.

Correspondence

Several articles regarding the Cumberland County Historical Society were distributed. The Cumberland County Historical Society has not received grant money from the Commission in several years; one reason being the Historical Society does not operate on an annual budget. Also, their audit shows a large unrestricted endowment. They did not apply last year. Joan McAllister tried to deal with the budget issues. Jean Jones has written several articles on the Society. The Historical Society did not receive funds from the county this year. Ms. Alaya asked if their issues will be resolved. Mr. Pisarski is not sure what is going to happen.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, August 21, 2010, in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.